

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05

IGA-01 /088 W

----- 104937

R 281425Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9787

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ELAB, NO, PO
SUBJ: NORWEGIAN LABOR'S STATEMENT ON PORTUGAL

REF: OSLO 2132

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED BRUSSELS

SUMMARY: JOINT STATEMENT ON MAY 27 ABOUT PORTUGAL BY NORWEGIAN LABOR PARYT AND TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) IS FIRST FORCEFUL DIRECT ATTACK IN MANY YEARS ON COMMUNIST OUTSIDE NORWAY BY USUALLY CAREFUL NORWEGIAN LABOR MOVEMENT. STATEMET WAS WRITTEN BY LO'S SECRETARY FOLLOWING HIS CON-
VERSATION WITH PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES IN PARIS MAY 25. LO GAVE COPIES TO EAST EUROPEAN EMBASSIES IN OSLO AND CALLED IN THERI REPRESENTATIVES YESTERDAY TO UNDERLINE GRAVITY WITH WHICH LO VIEWS SITUATION AND CONSEQUENCES IT COULD HAVE FOR DETENTE ADN EAST-WEST LABOR CONTACTS. COPIES ALSO BEING SENT TO PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND SOCIALIST AND COMMUNISTS PARTIES, ICFTU, POSSIBLY WFTU,AND OTHERS. APPARENT WILLING-
NESS OF LO TO PUT EAST-WEST LABOR CONTACTS ON THE LINE OVER THIS ISSUE IS INDEED REMARKABLE. STATEMENT CALLS ON BOTH SUPER POWERS TO "SHOW FORESIGHT" IN DEALING WITH PORTUGAL AND ITS INTERNAL GROUPINGS. NOTING THIS, SANDGREN EXPRESSED HOPE US WOULD CON-
TINUE ITS CAREFUL POLICY OF RESTRAINT TOWARD PORTUGAL.SANDGREN ALSO SAID SOARES HAD DESCRIBED PORTUGUESE ECONOMY AS DISASTROUS AND SANDGREN THUS SPOKE TO DESIRABILITY OF IMMEDIATE OFFERS OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AID, DISBURSEMENT OF WHICH WOULD PRO-
CEED AS LONG AS DEVELOPMENT TOWARD DEMOCRACY NOT CRUSHED, SEEMING TO IMPLY THAT A FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON AID BY THE US MIGHT ALSO BE HELPFUL. END SUMMARY.

1. LO INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KAARE SANDGREN MET WITHPORTUGUESE SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES IN PARIS MAY 25, AFTER NORWAY'S LABOR PARTY AND LO HAD CABLED LAST WEEK OFFERING TO SND A DELEGATION OROTHERWISE DEMONSTRATE THEIR SUPPORT
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IN THS DIFFICULT MOMENT FOR PORTUGUESE SOCIALITS. ALTHOUGH SANDGREN DECLINED TO REVEAL DETAILS OF CONVERSATION, HE SAID SOARES WAS GRAVELY WORRIED ABOUT PORTUGUESE SITUATION, ITS INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS,AND IMPACT THESE , INTURN, COULD HAVE IN PORTUGAL. HE FELT PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS HAD TO BE "BRAKED".

2. RETUNING FROM PORTUGAL, SANDGREN DRAFTED STATEMENT TRANSMITTED IN REFTEL AND BOTH LO AND LABOR PARTY APPROVED IT. QUESTION OF THE PROPOSED NORWEGIAN DELEGATION VISIT TO PORTUGAL DEMONSTRATED SUPPORT FOR SOCIALISTS WILL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE FOR MOMENT. STATEMENT WAS PROVIDED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF EAST BLOC EMBASSIES IN OSLO WHO WERE CALLED INTO LO INTERNATIONAL OFFICE TO BE INFORMED OF SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH LO AND LABOR PARTY VIEW PORTUGUESE SITUATION AND TO UNDERSCORE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR DETENTE AND EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONTACTS, SANDGREN STRESSED THAT SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN CREDIBILITY WAS BEING DIRECTLY CHALLENGED ON THIS ISSUE. NEW LABOR PARTY CHAIRMAN, REIULF STEEN, TOLD AMBASSADOR HE HAD MADE SOME POINT ABOUT DETENTE TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR WHO DID NOT COMMENT. TEXT IS BEING SENT TO PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES (BOTH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMEZ AND, PROBABLY, PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES, SANDGREN SAID), TO SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTIES AND TO ICFTU AND POSSIBLY WFTU, AMONG OTHER ADDRESSEES. PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI WILL BRING NORWEGIAN CONCERN TO PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES' ATTENTION AT NATO SUMMIT.

3. ALLUDING TO CALL FOR SUPER POWER "FORESIGHT", SANDGREN ACKNOWLEDGED WITH APPRECIATION THE CAREFUL AND RESTRAINED ROLE USG HAS PLAYED IN PORTUGAL. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS WOULD CONTINUE, AND THAT RUMORS OF A HARDER US ATTITUDE TOWARD PORTUGAL WOULD PROVE TO BE JUST RUMORS. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT SAY WHAT SOARES HAD SAID, BUT IMPLIED THAT SOARES WAS CONCERNED THAT SUCH RUMORS

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WOULD PLAY INTO COMMUNIST HANDS. SANDGREN COMMENTED ELLIPTICALLY THAT ACTIONS BY EITHER SUPER POWER COULD PRODUCE RESULTS OPPOSITE TO THOSE SOUGHT, BUT THAT HE HOPED THAT SMALLER COUNTRIES LIKE NORWAY COULD INFLUENCE THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION POSITIVELY.

4. SOARES HAD TOLD SANDGREN THAT PORTUGUESE ECONOMY WAS IN DISASTROUS CONDITION. SANDGREN FELT EUROPEAN AID OFFERS TO PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WERE NECESSARY AT THIS JUNCTURE, TO BE DISBURSED PROMPTLY, ASSUMING DEVELOPMENT TOWARD DEMOCRACY WAS NOT CRUSED. HE SEEMED TO BE HINTING THAT US AID GESTURES WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL RIGHT NOW.

5. COMMENT. NORWEGIAN LABOR'S UNUSUAL AND VIG-
OROUS ATTACK ON PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST ABUSES AND STRONG
SUPPORT TO SOARES' SOCIALISTS ARE CERTAINLY EN-
COURAGING. LO'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO RISK
ITS EAST-WEST LABOR EXCHANGE CAPITAL AS LEVERAGE IS
IMPRESSIVE. REFERENCE TO BOTH SUPER POWERS
SEEMS INSERTED PARTLY TO GIVE SOME BALANCE
TO AN OTHERWISE ANTI-COMMUNIST DOCUMENT.
IT IS EVIDENT THAT LO OFFICIALS ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT
RUMORS OF A NEW HARDER US POLICY
TOWARD PORTUGAL WHICH THEY BELIEVE WOULD INCREASE POPULAR
SYMPATHY FOR THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS AND THEIR MILITARY SYM-
PATHIZERS WHILE UNDERMINING SOARES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OSLO02152
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750187-1196
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750513/aaaaalqv.tel
Line Count: 184
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 OSLO 2132
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORWEGIAN LABOR'S STATEMENT ON PORTUGAL
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ELAB, NO, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006